

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the office action that claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, the Applicants submit that each of claims 1, 4-8, and 11-22 defines allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended as to clarify what was intended by the originally filed claims. Specifically, as amended, claims 1 and 8 recite that the electrolyte is a liquid, as supported in the present specification at page 13, lines 14-15.

New claims 13 and 14 are directed to electrolyte compositions wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 of the molecule of formula (1) independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a straight chain or branched chain saturated alkyl group. New claims 15-18 depend from claims 1, 8, 13 and 14, respectively, and recite that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 represents a saturated branch chain alkyl group. New claims 19-22 depend from claims 1, 8, 13 and 14, respectively, and recite that at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 represents a saturated straight chain alkyl

group. Support for these new claims can be found at page 4, line 12 of the present specification.

Claims 1, 4-8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Katsurao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,372,321). Based at least on the above-amendments and the arguments presented below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Anticipation exists only if (1) all claim elements, (2) are identically set forth, either expressly or inherently, (3) in a single prior art reference. *Mehl/Biophile International Corp. v. Milgraum*, 192 F.3d 1362, 1365 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

The Office Action states that Katsurao et al. teach a non-aqueous electrolyte comprising a polymer matrix and a non-aqueous electrolyte solution, with the solution containing an electrolyte salt and a non-aqueous solvent. However, the polymer electrolyte of Katsurao et al. is a solid electrolyte, in contrast to the liquid electrolyte recited by the present claims. The Applicants particularly note col. 4, ln. 4-16 of Katsurao et al., wherein the solid polymer electrolyte of the reference is described.

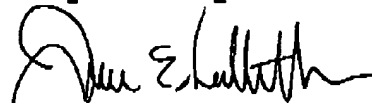
Additionally, the reference fails to teach or suggest to provide the electrolyte in a liquid form. Katsurao et al. describes numerous advantages for use of the solid electrolyte; thus, based on this reference alone, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the solid electrolyte.

With respect to new claims 13-22, Applicants respectfully submit that Katsurao et al. fail to teach or suggest to utilize saturated compounds. Specifically, the reference teaches the use of diacryl isocyanurate, tracyl isocyanurate or triallyl isocyanurate (col. 9, ln. 30-44). None of the compounds taught or suggested by Katsurao et al. are saturated.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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